Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for processing query messages over a network, comprising:

extracting a plurality of queries from a plurality of query messages received from a plurality of users over the network;

~~determining a number of queries included in the plurality of queries;~~

~~associating a current sequence number with the plurality of queries;~~

creating a <u>first</u> request message including the plurality of queries, a first sequence number<u>, and state information describing each query</u> ~~equal to the current sequence number and a first message count equal to the number of queries~~;

sending the request message to a search engine;

receiving a response message from the search engine, the response message including a plurality of replies<u>, each reply generated in response to a query</u>, a second sequence number, <u>and</u> <u>state information describing each query</u> ~~a second message count, a third sequence number and a third message count~~;

creating a plurality of reply messages from the plurality of replies; and

sending the plurality of reply messages to the plurality of users over the network.

2-3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a message latency associated with the first sequence number.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a request timestamp based on the request message;

updating a response timestamp based on the response message; and

comparing the request timestamp and the response timestamp.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 5, further comprising:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero; and

updating the response timestamp based on the additional response message.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a query count based on the request message;

updating a reply count based on the response message; and

comparing the query count and the reply count.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 7, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero; and

updating the reply count based on the additional response message.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a response count based on the response message; and

comparing the response count to a predetermined response count.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero; and

updating a response count based on the additional response message.

11. **(Currently Amended)**   A system for processing query messages over a network, comprising: a first network interface coupled to a first network;

a second network interface coupled to a second network;

at least one processor coupled to the first network interface and the second network interface; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory including instructions adapted to be executed by the processor to:

extract a plurality of queries from a plurality of query messages received from a plurality of users over the first network interface;

~~determine a number of queries included in the plurality of queries;~~

~~associate a current sequence number with the plurality of queries;~~

create a <u>first</u> request message including the plurality of queries, a first sequence number<u>, and state information describing each query</u> ~~equal to the current sequence number and a first message count first message count equal to the number of queries~~;

send the request message to a search engine over the second network interface;

receive a response message from the search engine over the second network interface, the response message including a plurality of replies, <u>each reply generated in response to a query,</u> a second sequence number, <u>and state information describing each query</u> ~~a second message count, a third sequence number, and a third message count~~;

create a plurality of reply messages from the plurality of replies; and

send the plurality of reply messages to the plurality of users over the first network interface.

12. **(Original)**   The system of claim 11, wherein the first network and the second network are the same network.

13-14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)**   The system of claim 11, wherein the instructions are further adapted to:

determine a message latency associated with the first sequence number, including:

update a request timestamp based on the request message,

update a response timestamp based on the response message, and

compare the request timestamp and the response timestamp;

receive an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero; and

update the request timestamp based on the additional response message.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 11, wherein the instructions are further adapted to:

determine a message latency associated with the first sequence number, including:

update a query count based on the request message,

update a reply count based on the response message, and

compare the query count and the reply count;

receive an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero; and

update the reply count based on the additional response message.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 11, wherein the instructions are further adapted to:

determine a message latency associated with the first sequence number, including:

update a response count based on the response message, and

compare the response count to a predetermined response count;

receive an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero; and

update a response count based on the additional response message.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium including instructions adapted to be executed by at least one processor to implement a method for processing query messages over a network, the method comprising:

extracting a plurality of queries from a plurality of query messages received from a plurality of users over the network;

~~determining a number of queries included in the plurality of queries;~~

~~associating a current sequence number with the plurality of queries;~~

creating a <u>first</u> request message including the plurality of queries, a first sequence number<u>, and state information describing each query</u> ~~equal to the current sequence number and a first message count equal to the number of queries~~;

sending the request message to a search engine;

receiving a response message from the search engine, the response message including a plurality of replies, <u>each reply generated in response to a query,</u> a second sequence number, <u>and</u> <u>state information describing each query</u> ~~a second message count, a third sequence number and a third message count~~;

creating a plurality of reply messages from the plurality of replies; and

sending the plurality of reply messages to the plurality of users over the network.

19-20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:

determining a message latency associated with the first sequence number.

22. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a request timestamp based on the request message;

updating a response timestamp based on the response message; and

comparing the request timestamp and the response timestamp.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero; and

updating the request timestamp based on the additional request message;

24. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a query count based on the request message;

updating a reply count based on the response message; and

comparing the query count and the reply count.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of claim 24, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero; and

updating the reply count based on the additional response message.

26. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

updating a response count based on the response message.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein said determining a message latency includes:

receiving an additional response message from the search engine, the additional response message including an additional plurality of replies, a fourth sequence number equal to the first sequence number and a fourth message count greater than zero; and

updating a response count based on the additional response message.

28. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the response message includes replies generated in response to the first sequence number and a third sequence number, the third sequence number identifying a subsequent request message created after the first request message.

29. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein sending the plurality of reply messages to the plurality of users comprises identifying a user associated with each query from which each reply message was generated using the state information.